

STORY 8.

HONESTY IN THE USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

ENTIRE ELIMINATION OF SELF.

By many people honey is regarded as a cure for many ailments.

Once (Hazrat) Omar the great fell ill. The physician advised the use of honey. But there was no honey in the house, although there was a good deal of it in the Public Store House. Now the official in charge of the Baitul-Mal had no authority to give any of it to any body without the sanction of the Muslim Public.

In order to obtain the required sanction (Hazrat) Omar walked with difficulty to the Prophet's mosque where the Muslims were assembled for prayers, and asked their permission to take a little honey for his personal use.

The permission was readily given and he took no more than was required for medicine purposes.

History fails to show such honesty and such strict regard for the rights of the people.

STORY 9.

HOW A MUSLIM RULER SUPERVISED HIS SUBORDINATES.

THE ISLAMIC STANDARD OF PUBLIC DUTY.

In the first century of Islam when the example of the Prophet was still fresh in the minds of the Muslims and when Islam was understood and practised in daily life the Caliph exercised very close supervision over provincial governors and other officials so that they might not give way to temptation with which they were beset.

At the same time he kept close watch over the morals and public conduct of the common people as well. The result was that society was mostly free from those vulgar immoral practices which disfigure some societies in these days of so called civilization.

Every governor had to sign a pledge that he would not ride a Turkish horse; he would not wear fine clothes nor eat bread made of fine flour; and he would not place sentinels at his door, but would keep it always open for those who might need to see him at any time of the day and night.

At the same time an inventory of all his belongings was made out, and if a sudden improvement in his financial position was discovered his belongings were thoroughly examined and the surplus was sent to the Public Treasury.